BLUE GARDEN
FIRST
METROPOLIS
COFTA
A REQUEST FOR AN AUDIENCE... FROM ZESHALD THE DIVINE ARTS CHIEF...
I RECALL HE'S THE ONE WE TOOK FROM FONCLANC
HE PROBABLY HAS TIES TO IZAPPNAR
I SUPPOSE I'M NOT ALLOWED TO REFUSE?
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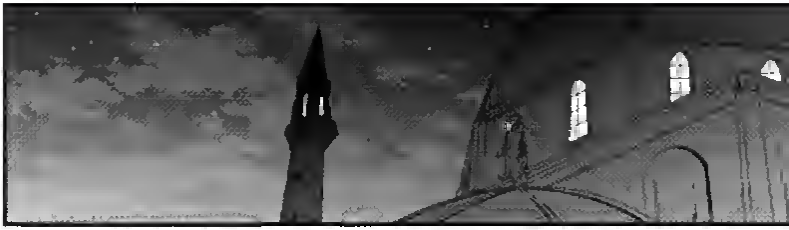
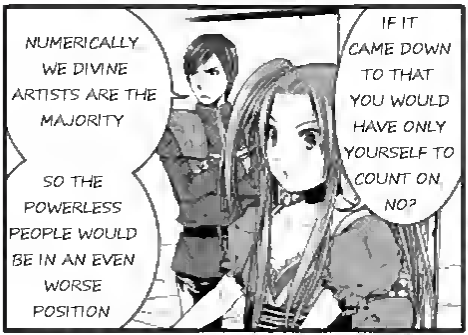


RAISING THE STATUS OF POWERLESS PEOPLE...
THAT IS RATHER DIFFICULT.

PRETTY MUCH

AND IF WE JUST START CHANGING HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS, THERE'S BE UNREST.


NUMERICALLY WE DIVINE ARTISTS ARE THE MAJORITY
SO THE POWERLESS PEOPLE WOULD BE IN AN EVEN WORSE POSITION
IF IT CAME DOWN TO THAT YOU WOULD HAVE ONLY YOURSELF TO COUNT ON, NO?

IT IS HOWEVER POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AND INJUSTICE.
YOU GOT ANY GOOD IDEAS?
BUT YOU WOULD DEFINITELY SEE OPPOSITION. IT WOULD BE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE.
IF YOU WISH TO RAISE THE STATUS OF THE POWERLESS, YOU WOULD NEED TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S MINDSETS.
EVEN IF YOU CHANGED THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, RESULTS WOULD TAKE DECADES TO SHOW UP.
IT'S SIMPLE
JUST TIGHTEN THE LEASH ON THE OFFICIALS BY MAKING USE OF THEIR PRIDE.
W...WHAT IS THAT REACTION SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YOUR AVERAGE OFFICIAL DOESN'T CARE ABOUT PRIDE
YOU CAN'T EAT IT, AND MOST OF THEM ARE WORKING FOR THEIR FAMILY'S SAKE
THEIR PRIDE HUH...

BUT IF THOSE IN POWER HELP THERE ARE SOME QUICK METHODS
CHANGING HOW PEOPLE THINK ISN'T EASY.
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OH, WHAT SORT OF METHODS?
THAT IS TRUE
OUR KING ALSO PREFERS THE TRUTH OVER HIS PRESTIGE.
うーん
ANNOUNCE A LAW TO PROTECT THEM!
AS LONG AS YOU CAN THINK OF SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS NICE, IT'S FINE.
SAY YOU'RE PROTECTING THE WEAK. OR SUGGEST THAT BLUE GARDEN TREATS THEM AS SLAVES
カチャ…
A LAW FOR PROTECTING THE POWERLESS PEOPLE?
YOU WILL NEED TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE WITH A GOOD REASON.

INDEED, IT SOUNDS GOOD
PRINCESS, DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO ASK THE KING FOR SUCH...
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE TREATED LIKE A SLAVE HERE
AND IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR THOSE IN POWER
WELL, NO...
IS THERE A REASON FOR THIS ANYWAYS?
CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE INJUSTICES AGAINST THE POWERLESS PEOPLE?
KREIVOL
WE BETTER KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FLYING PIGS!
VOLET, YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING SOMETHING GOOD!
WHAT YOU GAIN OR LOSE MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IN THE BIGGER PICTURE
IT IS BUT A SIMPLE MATTER
THEN IT IS DECIDED!

GAZETTA?!
WOAH! W-WHAT'S WRONG?!
A GUY I MET TODAY, SHINHA FROM THE KINGDOM OF, UH, GAZETTA
WHAT, TRAVELER?
HAHA!
ARE YOU CALLING ME AN IDIOT?!
BUT IF WE IMPLEMENT THAT LAW TRAVELERS LIKE HIM SHOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME
YUUSUKE, HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GAZETTA?
HUH? I SAW IT ON A MAP ONCE IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?

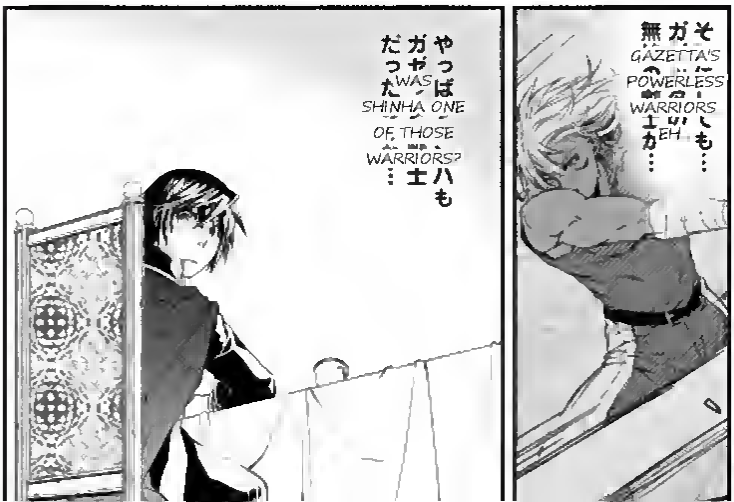
I DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT. BUT ZESHALD TOLD ME A FEW THINGS BEFORE.
GAZETTA IS RULED BY A POWERLESS PERSON IT SEEMS
I DO NOT KNOW MUCH EITHER.
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?
SO IT'S A COUNTRY FOR POWERLESS PEOPLE?
MOST OF GAZETTA IS IN A RUGGED MOUNTAIN RANGE AND THEIR LARGEST CITY IS NEAR BLUE GARDEN.
IT LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL COUNTRY ON THE OUTSIDE
BUT SUPPOSEDLY A POWERLESS KING IS RULING FROM THE CAPITAL SOMEWHERE IN THE MOUNTAINS
AND IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY ALSO TRAIN THEIR "POWERLESS WARRIORS" THERE.

THAT REMINDS ME... SUN AND MISS BAHANA ARE BOTH SMALL AND YET RATHER STRONG...
AND SHINHA'S FIGHTING STYLE WAS PRETTY WILD...
EACH KINGDOM KNOWS OF THESE WARRIORS BUT THEY ALL FEIGN IGNORANCE.
THE TRUTH IS THAT RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT POWERLESS PEOPLE POSSESS GREATER VITALITY AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES THAN DIVINE ARTISTS.
SO IT SEEMS POWERLESS PEOPLE ARE ALL FIGHTERS.
SO UNLESS YOU HAVE A WIND ARTIST SEARCHING FOR THEM, YOU WILL HAVE A TOUGH TIME FINDING THEM.
THE POWERLESS PEOPLE DO NOT EMIT AN AURA.
YOU KNOW THAT PROTECTION LAW WE WERE TALKING ABOUT? WE SHOULD GIVE POWERLESS PEOPLE JOBS AND HAVE THEM WORK AROUND DIVINE ARTISTS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO DOES THAT MEAN PHYSICAL LABOR IS THEIR FORTE?
THIS MIGHT BE PRETTY USEFUL...

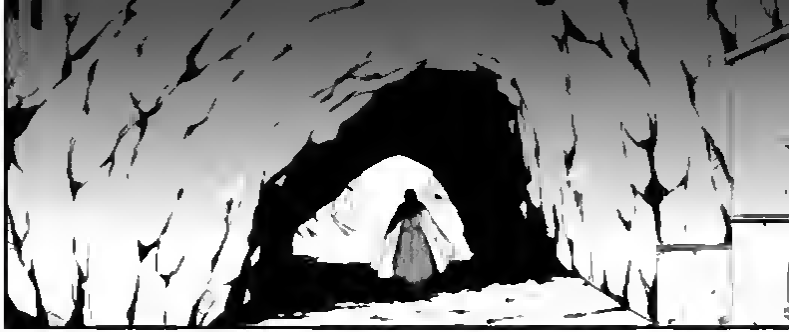
WHAT IF YOU HIRED THEM TO CLEAN THE PALACE?
YOU WANT TO BRING POWERLESS PEOPLE INTO THE CITY?
HMMM. BY EMPLOYING THEM WE CAN KEEP THE RECALCITRANTS IN CHECK
I UNDERSTAND YOUR AIM, BUT WILL IT REALLY GO SO SMOOTHLY?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF EARLIER. IT'LL TAKE DECADES THROUGH EDUCATION.
AND WITH THE MONEY THEY EARN THE POWERLESS PEOPLE WILL RISE IN SOCIETY
PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY BIASED AGAINST THE UNFAMILIAR SO WE SHOULD DEAL WITH
SO THE ISSUE LIKELY ARISES FROM WHAT THEY LEARN AS CHILDREN. AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE 4 GODS
DO THE TEACHINGS SAY ANYTHING REGARDING INTERACTIONS WITH THE POWERLESS PEOPLE?

BANISHED TO WHERE?
IT DOES NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT-
THERE WAS THIS VERSE "THOSE THAT REFUSE OUR BLESSINGS SHALL BE BANISHED"
HMM... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DO NOT THINK SO...
KREIVOL WAS THERE ANYTHING OF THAT SORT?

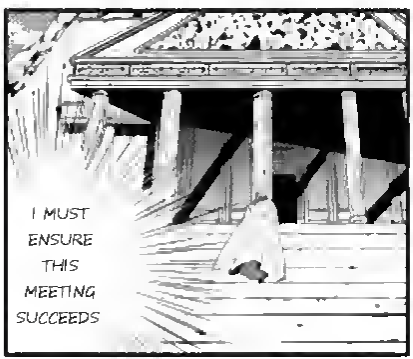
IT'D BE ANOTHER STORY IF THE TEACHINGS DEMANDED KILLING PEOPLE
THEN IT'LL BE FINE


そ…も…
ガゼッタの無力な戦士か…
GAZETTA'S POWERLESS WARRIORS EH…
やっぱシンハもガゼッタの無力な戦士だったか…
SHINHA WAS ONE OF THOSE WARRIORS?

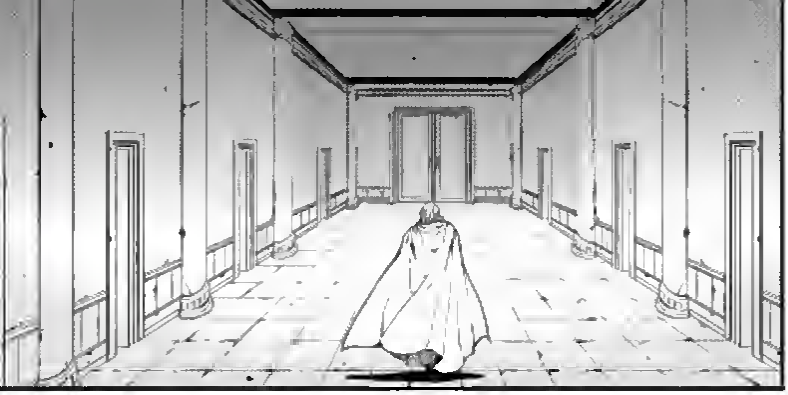
FATHER, THERE IS SOMETHING I REALLY WANT...
OH, ARE YOU ASKING FOR SOMETHING EXORBITANT AGAIN?
PRINCESS VOLET IS ASKING FOR SOMETHING ODD AGAIN
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THAT MAN...
JUST WHAT IS THE POINT OF THIS PROTECTION?
SOME DAYS LATER A LAW REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF POWERLESS PEOPLE WAS ANNOUNCED
JUST BEFORE THAT...
BLUE GARDEN FIRST METROPOLIS COFTA

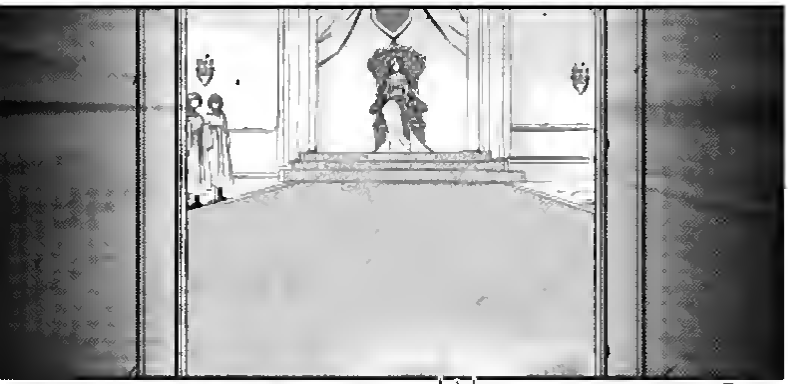


FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT TO BE THIS DIFFERENT WITHIN THE SAME KINGDOM...


I MUST ENSURE THIS MEETING SUCCEEDS

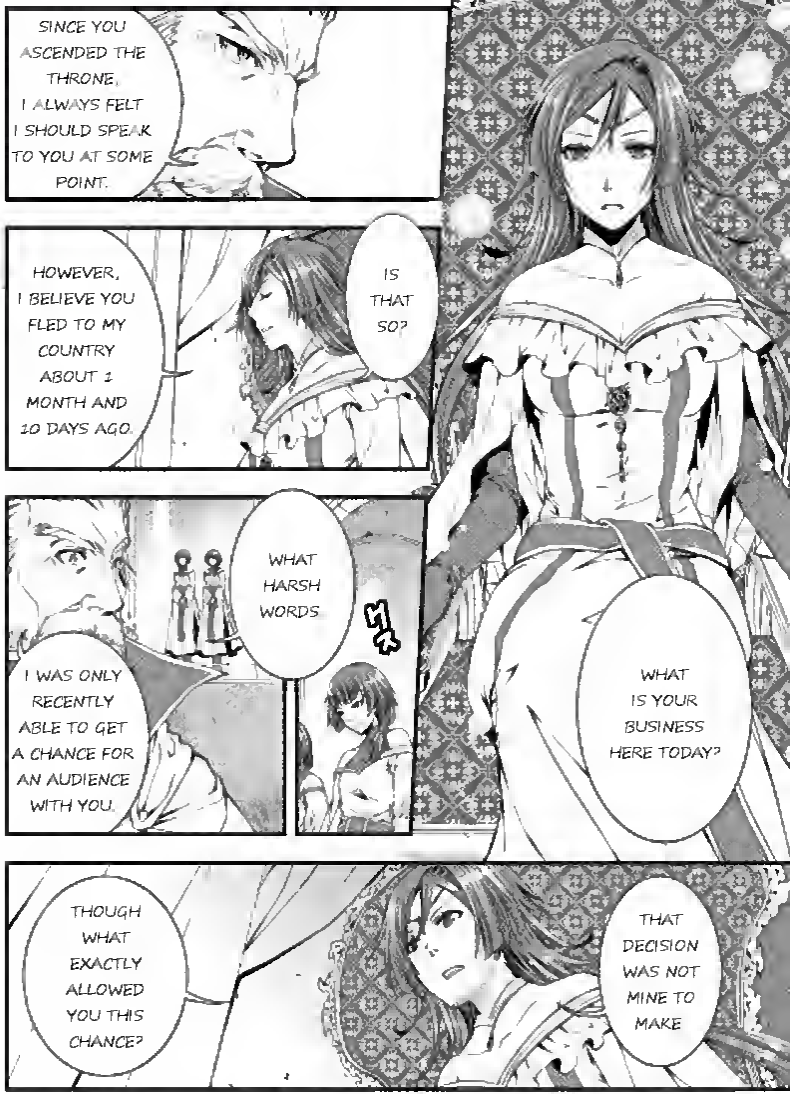
THE POWERLESS PEOPLE IN COFTA ARE PROTECTED BY THE QUEEN.
UNLIKE IN PAULA, THEY AREN'T TREATED AS SLAVES HERE





THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT OVERLY FORMAL GREETING, DIVINE ARTS CHIEF ZESHALD

I AM OVERJOYED TO BE GRANTED THIS AUDIENCE-
I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU DOING WELL, QUEEN RISHALEUS


SINCE YOU ASCENDED THE THRONE, I ALWAYS FELT I SHOULD SPEAK TO YOU AT SOME POINT.
HOWEVER, I BELIEVE YOU FLED TO MY COUNTRY ABOUT 1 MONTH AND 10 DAYS AGO.
IS THAT SO?
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE TODAY?
WHAT HARSH WORDS
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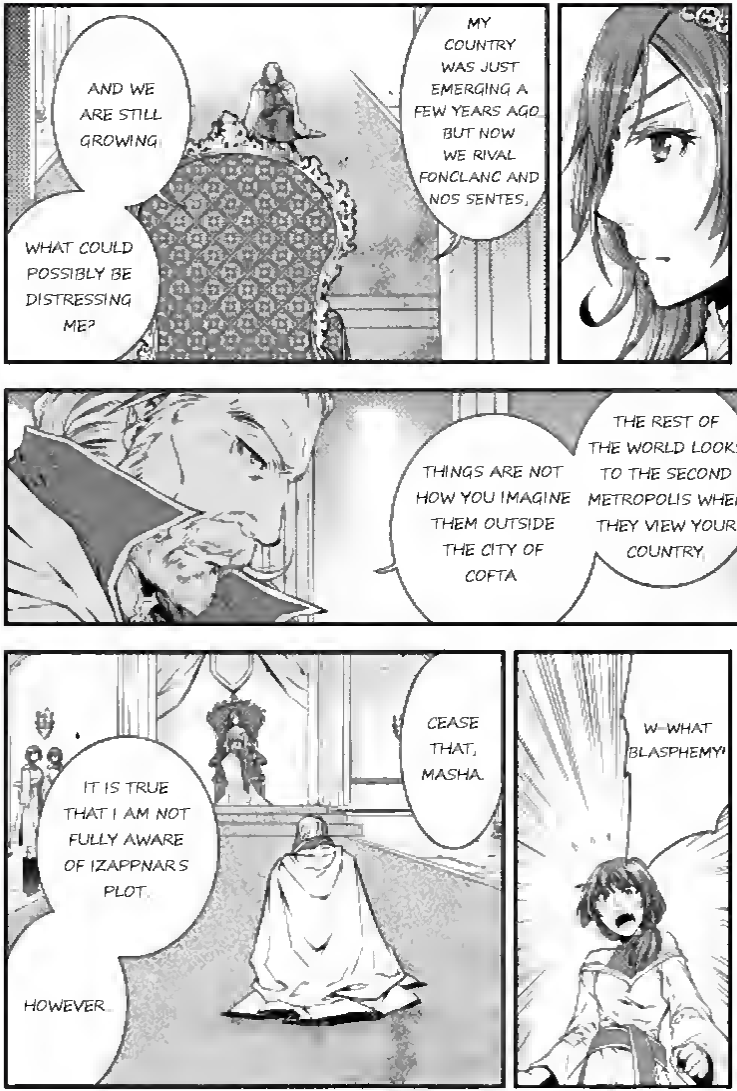
I WAS ONLY RECENTLY ABLE TO GET A CHANCE FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU.
THOUGH WHAT EXACTLY ALLOWED YOU THIS CHANCE?
THAT DECISION WAS NOT MINE TO MAKE

I WAS AVOIDING MEETING WITH SUPREME COMMANDER IZAPPNAR'S SUBORDINATE
I WISHED TO MEET WITH YOUR MAJESTY PERSONALLY
AS FONCLANC'S FORMER ROYAL DIVINE ARTS CHIEF
.....?
YOUR MAJESTY, DOES YOUR COUNTRY'S CURRENT STATE DISTRESS YOU?
QUIET
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN?


MY COUNTRY WAS JUST EMERGING A FEW YEARS AGO. BUT NOW WE RIVAL FONCLANC AND NOS SENTES.
AND WE ARE STILL GROWING.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE DISTRESSING ME?
THE REST OF THE WORLD LOOKS TO THE SECOND METROPOLIS WHEN THEY VIEW YOUR COUNTRY.
THINGS ARE NOT HOW YOU IMAGINE THEM OUTSIDE THE CITY OF COFTA.
CEASE THAT, MASHA.
IT IS TRUE THAT I AM NOT FULLY AWARE OF IZAPPNAR'S PLOT.
HOWEVER...
W-WHAT BLASPHEMY!

MY AIM IS TO CREATE A KINGDOM WHERE EVERYONE, EVEN THE POWERLESS PEOPLE, CAN LIVE TOGETHER.
IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MY FATHER'S DREAM I CANNOT AFFORD TO SACRIFICE THE COUNTRY'S GROWTH AND STABILITY.
INDEED. THE REASON I CAN EVEN MAKE FATHER'S DREAM A REALITY IN COFTA
ギュッ
大臣 IS BECAUSE OF HOW BLUE GARDEN HAS GROWN.
HOWEVER AT THIS RATE ONE DAY YOU WILL EVEN LOSE YOUR AUTHORITY HERE IN COFTA
HOW RUDE!
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SUCH REMARKS TOWARDS THE QUEEN WILL NOT BE PERMITTED!

SASHA! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BACK ME UP!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE AN IDIOT. GIVE THAT OLD MAN A WORD OR TWO YOURSELF!
HER MAJESTY TOLD YOU TO STOP.
JUST OBSERVE QUIETLY.
WILL THE 2 OF YOU CALM DOWN ALREADY?!
SIR ZESHALD.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE?
I WOULD RATHER LIKE IT IF OUR COUNTRIES WERE ON FRIENDLY TERMS.
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I WOULD PREFER IF YOU WERE PEACEFUL IN YOUR METHODS
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO GET RID OF IZAPPNAR?
……
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
IF IZAPPNAR WERE TO DISAPPEAR RIGHT NOW WE WOULD BE ENGULFED IN CHAOS
そうなればフォンクランクブは攻めこんでしまうわ…
AND FONCLANC WOULD MOVE IN, TO DESTROY US
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FONCLANC DOES NOT DESIRE BLUE GARDEN'S DEMISE
BUT WOULDN'T GETTING RID OF IZAPPNAR OFFER SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY?
FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS BUT I BELIEVE YOU ARE UNDERESTIMATING YOUR OWN AUTHORITY AND POPULARITY
I NO LONGER POSSESS
THAT LEVEL OF AUTHORITY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MANPOWER YOU NEED IN THAT CASE